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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of dormant cryptobiotic microbes comprising:
 - a. exciting the intrinsic dormant cryptobiotic microbial chromophore with a specific range of electromagnetic radiation wavelength between 610 nm and 680 nm; whereby said microbes containing intrinsic chromophores are excited to emit electromagnetic radiation; ~~radiation, and,~~
 - b. detecting the emitted electromagnetic radiation signals from the excited microbial chromophores in the 710 nm to 860 nm range; ~~and range.~~
 - c. removing the background, reflected excitation and/or scattered electromagnetic radiation signals from the emission signal by analysis, in order to detect the presence of dormant cryptobiotic microbes.
2. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said microbe chromophores are selected from the group consisting of alkali earth metal-pyridine dicarboxylic acid salts.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the dormant cryptobiotic microbes to be detected include bacterial endospores, fungal spores, and protozoa oocysts.